

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... (Matthew 28:20)*

Immediately after the long season of Pentecost starts, the parament colors change back to white for one Sunday – Trinity Sunday. It's a unique Sunday, dedicated to a doctrine and not something in the life of Jesus or saints. The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is one of the most important teachings of the Church, but also one of the most confusing.

Our God is Trinity, which means three-in-one. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Yet, God is still one God. It doesn't make sense, but that's our problem as limited creatures. God is so far above us that it shouldn't surprise us that there is plenty we can't understand.

Just because we can't understand it, though, doesn't make it any less important. Many false teachers and movements have risen up throughout Church history challenging the orthodox Christian teaching of the Trinity. In response, the Church has always affirmed what is true and right. These affirmations became creeds. And the creed that specifically addresses the Trinity is the Athanasian Creed, which we confess every Trinity Sunday.

Confessions like the Athanasian Creed are important for defending the purity of the doctrine. But when we hear things like, "This is the catholic faith, the faith which if one does not believe truly and firmly, he cannot be saved," it may make us wonder about our own salvation. What exactly do I have to believe to be saved? More important, what exactly do I have to truly and utterly understand about the doctrine of the Trinity to be saved?

Well, that's the thing about faith. Understanding is good, but faith is not about being able to understand. God's peace for us, which guards our hearts and minds, *surpasses all understanding* (Philippians 4:7). Faith is about trust, and trust takes God at his Word. If God says it, then it's true. And God has told us that he is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So, even if we don't understand it, we confess it.

The goal of God's revelation is not to help us to understand the inner workings of his being. Sure, God's revelation to us is important. It's important to know that God is, in fact, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But the ultimate goal of God's revelation in his Word is to point us to what he's done for us, because this is how God wants to be known. And what he has done for you is not only that he created you, but that he loves you so much that he sent his only Son into the world to take away your sins by dying on the cross. This same God raised Jesus from the dead made him Lord and Christ. And this Christ promised to send to you his very Holy Spirit, who will empower you and keep you in the faith, even if it's a faith you don't completely understand. Like children, even if we do not yet understand, we are still God's children, marked with his most holy and precious name!

-Pastor Squire

“Triune God, be Thou our stay; O let us perish never! Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, and grant us life forever. Keep us from the evil one; uphold our faith most holy. And let

us trust Thee solely with humble hearts and lowly. Let us put God's armor on, with all true Christian running our heavenly race and shunning the devil's wiles and cunning. Amen, amen! This be done; so sing we, "Alleluia!"

(“Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay” *LSB 505*)